Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A prepress system comprising:

a raster image processor configured to develop ~~for developing~~ first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop ~~for developing~~ second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data;

a data storage configured to store ~~for storing~~ the first raster image data created in advance prior to creation of the second raster image data; ~~and~~

a plate image inspection processor configured to execute ~~for executing~~ a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display ~~displaying~~ on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process; and

a controller configured to control the raster image processor, the data storage, and the plate image inspection processor, wherein

the controller includes a parameter setting section configured to set a flow pattern of a prepress process,

the second print image data is proofed data of the first print image data,

the parameter setting section sets a first flow pattern of the prepress process for the first print image data and a second flow pattern of the prepress process for the second print image data, the first flow pattern including a step where the data storage stores the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor, the second flow pattern including a step where the

plate image inspection processor executes the plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data,

upon receiving the first print image data, the controller executes the prepress process according to the first flow pattern where the controller causes the data storage to store the first raster image data, and

upon receiving the second print image data, the controller executes the prepress process according to the second flow pattern where the controller causes the plate image inspection processor to execute the plate image inspection process.

2. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 1, wherein the print image data may include a text object, a graphics object, and a bitmap image object in respective formats.

3. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 1, wherein the plate image inspection process includes calculating, for each pixel location, a pixel value difference between the first and second raster image data, and

the result of the plate image inspection process distinctly displays pixels whose pixel value difference is greater than a threshold value, which can be adjusted by a user.

4. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 1, wherein the plate image inspection processor enables a user to select the first raster image data for use in the plate image inspection process.

5. (Currently Amended) A prepress system according to claim 1, wherein

if the print image data includes plural types of image objects, the developing is performed using at least one specific type ~~by~~ but not all types of image objects.

6. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 1, wherein the raster image processor is capable of re-developing the second print image data after a reference image position for image development being moved by a distance smaller than a pixel pitch at the display resolution.

7. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 6, wherein the raster image processor divides a print area represented by the second print image data into a plurality of divisional areas each having an individual reference image position for image development; and

the plate image inspection processor determines independently the plate image inspection result for each of the plurality of areas.

8. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 1, wherein the raster image processor develops the second print image data with a plurality of reference image positions for image development to create plural sets of the second raster image data, the plurality of reference image positions being separated by a distance smaller than a pixel pitch at the display resolution, and

the plate image inspection processor calculates, for each of the plural sets of the second raster image data, an image difference magnitude that represents magnitude of difference from the first raster image data, and displays on the display device the plate image inspection result

based on a selected one of the plural sets of the second raster image data having the smallest value of the image difference magnitude.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of executing plate image inspection using a prepress system, wherein

the prepress system comprises:

a raster image processor configured to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data;

a data storage;

a plate image inspection processor configured to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process; and

a controller configured to control the raster image processor, the data storage, and the plate image inspection processor, and wherein

the controller includes a parameter setting section configured to set a flow pattern of a prepress process,

the second print image data is proofed data of the first print image data,

the method comprises the steps of:

at the parameter setting section, setting a first flow pattern of the prepress process for the first print image data and a second flow pattern of the prepress process for the second print image data, the first flow pattern including a step where the data storage stores the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor, the second flow pattern including a step

where the plate image inspection processor executes the plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data;

at the controller, upon receiving the first print image data, executing the prepress process according to the first flow pattern where the controller causes the data storage to store the first raster image data; and

at the controller, upon receiving the second print image data, executing the prepress process according to the second flow pattern where the controller causes the plate image inspection processor to execute the plate image inspection process.

~~comprising the steps of:~~

~~(a) developing first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data;~~

~~(b) developing second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data; and~~

~~(c) executing a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and displaying on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process.~~

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the print image data may include a t ext object, a graphics object, and a bitmap image object in respective formats.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the plate image inspection process includes calculating, for each pixel location, a pixel value difference between the first and second raster image data, and

the result of the plate image inspection process distinctly displays pixels whose pixel value difference is greater than a threshold value, which can be adjusted by a user.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the first raster image data for use in the plate image inspection process is selected by a user.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein

if the print image data includes plural types of image objects, the developing is performed using at least one specific type ~~by~~ but not all types of image objects.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the developing the second print image data ~~step (b)~~ includes re-developing the second print image data after a reference image position for image development being moved by a distance smaller than a pixel pitch at the display resolution.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the developing the second print image data ~~step (b)~~ includes dividing a print area represented by the second print image data into a plurality of divisional areas each having an individual reference image position for image development; and the executing the plate image inspection process ~~step (c)~~ includes determining independently the plate image inspection result for each of the plurality of areas.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the developing the second print image data ~~step (b)~~ includes developing the second print image data with a plurality of reference image positions for image development to create plural sets of the second raster

image data, the plurality of reference image positions being separated by a distance smaller than a pixel pitch at the display resolution, and

the executing the plate image inspection process ~~step (c)~~ includes calculating, for each of the plural sets of the second raster image data, an image difference magnitude that represents magnitude of difference from the first raster image data, and displaying on the display device the plate image inspection result based on a selected one of the plural sets of the second raster image data having the smallest value of the image difference magnitude.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for executing plate image inspection using a prepress system, wherein

the prepress system comprises:

a raster image processor configured to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data;

a data storage; and

a plate image inspection processor configured to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process, and wherein

the second print image data is proofed data of the first print image data,

the computer program product ~~comprising~~comprises:

a computer storage readable medium; and

a computer program for a prepress process stored on the computer readable medium, the computer program including:

a first program for setting a first flow pattern of the prepress process for the first print image data and a second flow pattern of the prepress process for the second print image data, the first flow pattern including a step where the data storage stores the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor, the second flow pattern including a step where the plate image inspection processor executes the plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data;

a second program, upon receiving the first print image data, for executing the prepress process according to the first flow pattern to cause the data storage to store the first raster image data; and

a third program, upon receiving the second print image data, for executing the prepress process according to the second flow pattern to cause the plate image inspection processor to execute the plate image inspection process.

~~a first program for causing a computer to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data; and~~

~~a second program for causing the computer to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and displaying on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process.~~

18. (New) A prepress system comprising:

a raster image processor configured to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data;

a data storage configured to store the first raster image data created in advance prior to creation of the second raster image data;

a plate image inspection processor configured to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process; and

a controller configured to control the raster image processor, the data storage, and the plate image inspection processor, wherein

the controller includes a parameter setting section configured to set a flow pattern of a prepress process, the flow pattern including a storing-inspection step,

the controller executes the prepress process according to the flow pattern,

when processing the first print image data according to the flow pattern, the controller causes the data storage, in the storing-inspection step, to store the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor for use in a future inspection process of proofed print image data without executing the inspection process, followed by executing a next step in the flow pattern, the first print image data being print image data prior to proofing,

when processing the second print image data according to the flow pattern, the controller causes the plate image inspection processor, in the storing-inspection step, to execute the plate image inspection process, the second print image data being proofed data of the first print image data.

19. (New) A method of executing plate image inspection using a prepress system, wherein

the prepress system comprises:

a raster image processor configured to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data;

a data storage;

a plate image inspection processor configured to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process; and

a controller configured to control the raster image processor, the data storage, and the plate image inspection processor, and wherein

the method comprises the steps of:

at the controller, setting a flow pattern of a prepress process, the flow pattern including a storing-inspection step; and

at the controller, executing the prepress process according to the flow pattern, and wherein

the executing the prepress process includes the steps of:

when processing the first print image data according to the flow pattern, at the controller, causing the data storage, in the storing-inspection step, to store the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor for use in a future inspection process of proofed print image data without executing the inspection process, followed by proceeding to a next step in the flow pattern, the first print image data being print image data prior to proofing; and

when processing the second print image data according to the flow pattern, at the controller, causing the plate image inspection processor, in the storing-inspection step, to execute

the plate image inspection process, the second print image data being proofed data of the first print image data.

20. (New) A computer program product for executing plate image inspection using a prepress system, wherein

the prepress system comprises:

a raster image processor configured to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data;

a data storage; and

a plate image inspection processor configured to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process, and wherein

the computer program product comprises:

a computer readable medium; and

a computer program stored on the computer readable medium, the computer program including:

a first program for setting a flow pattern of a prepress process, the flow pattern including a storing-inspection step; and

a second program for executing the prepress process according to the flow pattern, and wherein

the second program includes:

a program, when processing the first print image data according to the flow pattern, for causing the data storage, in the storing-inspection step, to store the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor for use in a future inspection process of proofed print image data without executing the inspection process, followed by proceeding to a next step in the flow pattern, the first print image data being print image data prior to proofing; and

a program, when processing the second print image data according to the flow pattern, for causing the plate image inspection processor, in the storing-inspection step, to execute the plate image inspection process, the second print image data being proofed data of the first print image data.